

Brethren Evangelist.

"LET US GO ON UNTO PERFECTION."

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For terms, instruction, etc., see page 16.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The way to obtain recognition is to go ahead; to quietly, persistently make one's self worthy of it. If it comes, well and good; if it does not come, it is something to prove one's self worthy of it.

The late conference held at Ashland instructed the *Brethren Book and Tract Committee* to prepare a hymn book for the Brethren Church. The manuscript is well under way and by January 1895 will be ready for the press. Announcements will be made as the work progresses.

The differences which have existed for some time in the Evangelical Association have resulted in the organization of another denomination. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has decided in favor of the *Bowman-Esher* party. The followers of Bishop Dubs recently held a conference at Reading, Pa., and resolved to organize under the name of the "United Evangelical Church." This division is to be deplored in this day when the Christian world is reaching out and laboring for a closer union in the work of the Master.

The strong declarations of the young peoples' societies of the different denominations in favor of practical religion is an encouraging sign of the times. The late convention of Christian Endeavor held at Oshkosh, Wis., declares: "We also believe that Christian Endeavor stands for Christian citizenship, for Christian statesmanship, and we ought to put Christian principles into our politics. So long as the great social evils like Sabbath desecration, intemperance and gambling, intrench themselves behind politics then we must go into politics to combat them." This avowal was made with great enthusiasm, and Dr. P. S. Henson, the eloquent Chicago preacher, set on fire with its sentiment, delivered a touching and powerful sermon.

"Many good purposes lie in the church-yard," says Philip Henry. What a cold resting place! Purposes and resolutions never accomplish anything unless put into action. Many a one has formed noble resolutions and conceived grand purposes in the heart, but the devil dug the grave in which to bury them. We do not need to resolve less, but we do need to act more.

An exchange has the following to say in reference to the relation of people to the pastor:—"No one ever lost anything by standing faithfully by the pastor, and by holding up his hands in every good work. On the other hand no one ever quarreled with a pastor without personal hurt and loss. It is a much more serious thing to turn one's influence against a pastor than most people imagine. No one is ever likely to recover from the effects of such a course." We commend these words to the consideration of every member of the Brethren Church. They are true words and many a pastor can bear testimony to them, not from observation only, but from practical experience. Stand by your pastor. Hold up his hands, as Aaron and Hur did those of Moses, and you will never have cause for regret.

Here is an example of church attendance from a heathen land, which should put the occasional church-goer to open shame. Surely those who excuse themselves from church attendance because there are signs for rain, or because the sun is too warm, will find a wholesome lesson in this incident:—"A girl who lived near the Ogore river, West Africa, one Saturday came in her canoe with two bunches of plaintains to sell to the missionary. When she was going away the missionary's wife said to her: "You must not forget that tomorrow will be the Sabbath day, and you have already promised to come to service." "Yes," said the girl, "I will surely come if I am alive." And so she did; but no one knew how she got there until at the close of the service she told the girls that in the night her canoe had been stolen, and none of her friends would lend her one; but she had promised to come to church, and so she felt she must. She swam all the way! The current was swift, the water deep, and the river fully a third of a mile wide; but by swimming diagonally she succeeded in crossing the river."

A recent decision of Judge Barker in the Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County brings up the old contention between "Catholic" and "Protestant." That action removed an injunction forbidding the teachers who were nuns to wear the distinctive garb of their religious order, while supporting that which restrained them from using the catechism of the Roman Catholic Church. The second part of this decision was manifestly correct, at any rate, and it was probably thought that the matter of costume was of small importance. There must be no sectarian religious instruction in the public schools of America. There are certain doctrines about God and His relation to men that all Christian people hold in common, and these should be taught to the children. If it is necessary that our children shall be taught ethics so far as their neighbors are concerned, and patriotism for the sake of their relation to the state, far more is it necessary that they shall be taught the essential facts of religion.

Music is a very important part of church service and the *kind* of music used in our churches and Sunday schools should be carefully selected. Bishop Whitehead of the Protestant Episcopal Church in an address to the clergy of his church, said: "The musical part of the service should be as sacred as the prayers. They are prayers musically rendered. You have no right to mock God in hymns and anthems, with empty sound nor with sentimental nonsense nor with words which are utterly untimely." In keeping with the above an exchange has the following: "Music provided with any other thought than that of worship, will always prove a snare. It is not for the purpose of entertainment, the gratification of the aesthetic or artistic nature or pleasure, that is called for in the house of God, but for assisting in worship and as a part of worship. We want oratory and rhetoric in preaching, and we want music in the service; but oratory, music, rhetoric and all, made entirely subservient to the one end of glorifying God and leading worshippers in their approach to the throne of grace." These are timely words, and our churches and pastors do well to heed them. In the preparation of a hymn book for the Brethren Church we shall endeavor to profit by them, and make a selection of hymns and music that are reverent and thoughtful, and in keeping with the spirit of true worship.